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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/503,262	02/14/2000	Linda McMeekin	JBP-480	6305

7590 04/17/2002

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EXAMINER
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WALCZAK, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3751

DATE MAILED: 04/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/503,262

Applicant(s)

MCMEEKIN ET AL.

Examiner

David J. Walczak

Art Unit

3751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 February 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4, 7. 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Restriction Requirement***

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged.

The traversal is on the ground(s) that the groups are distinct. This is found persuasive.

Accordingly, the restriction requirement is hereby withdrawn and claims 1-46 are hereby rejoined and will be examined herein

~~The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.~~

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to because reference character 18 (page 10, line 5) is not present in any of the drawings. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The claims are replete with features which have not been shown in the drawings, i.e, the various shapes defined in claim 8, the inner substrate and an inner substrate positioned between two outer sheets and folded on itself (claims 11-14), the three-dimensional body defining an inner substrate (claim 15), all of the securing means defined in claim 16, all of the holding means defined in claim 19 and all of the forms of the device defined in claims 24 and 25, must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. The Applicant should

review all of the claims to ensure that all of the features therein are shown in the drawings. No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 13 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In regard to claim 13, an antecedent basis for "the two outer sheets" should be defined. In regard to claim 36, an antecedent basis for "the water soluble material" should be defined.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art shown in Figures 4-6. The Applicant discloses that the various structures claimed are well-known in the art (i.e., see page 8, line 30, page 9, line 23 and page 10, line 19). The Applicant merely contends that the specific material used to make the

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device, i.e., a <sup>32</sup>“textured film having textured variations” (claim 1) and <sup>32</sup>“textured film” (claim 24) is novel, however, such limitations do not define around the prior art shown in Figures 4-6. The specification indicates on page 4, lines 3 and 17 that “textured variations” can mean holes and “textured film” can be any film with apertures. Accordingly, as the prior art discloses a non-woven film having holes/apertures therethrough, wherein the film can be used to make the various claimed device, the claims do not define around the prior art. Further, the various claimed dimensions, i.e., the amount of “textured variations”, the amount of open area, etc., are considered to be a matter of obvious design choice depending on the needs of the manufacturer. Further, the random cross-sections of the mesh (Figure 5) will define a cloth having a first side with a “different” texture than the second side.

Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt. Schmidt discloses a textured film having textured variations (as defined by the Applicant) which can be impregnated with various products and which has a high capacity for holding product. Although the Schmidt reference does not disclose the various structures and dimensions being claimed, as discussed supra, such features are commonly known in the art and , accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the various devices from the material defined by Schmidt in order to form devices which have a high capacity for holding product.

### **Conclusion**


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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Laun, Shizuno et al. and Hotchkiss references are cited for disclosing other textured film devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Walczak whose telephone number is 703-308-0608. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 6:30- 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg L. Huson can be reached on 703-308-2580. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.



David J. Walczak  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3751

DJW  
April 13, 2002